Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1376 - December 26, 2003

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1376 with a release date of Friday, December 26, 2003 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A California city says NO to BPL, an earthquake hits the central California and Kids Day 2004 is just a week or so away. The details on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1376 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: LOMPOC SAYS NO TO BPL

The City of Lompoc, California, has said NO to Broadband over Powerlines, and its a big win for ham radio. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has been monitoring the situation and has the details:

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Paul Andreasen, K1JAN, said it this way -- quote: "Well, we won ONE at least!"

What Andreasen is referring to was a plan by Lompoc city leaders to deploy Broadband over Powerlines in that city and the work of the ham community to head it off.

Andreasen is the ARRL Technical Coordinator for the Santa Barbara Section and a ARRL Technical Advisor for the League's Southwestern Division. And he was one of the organizers of the movement to stop the deployment of B-P-L in the Lompoc area.

In an e-mail, Andreasen says that his group sprang into action when they learned of plans to permit powerline broadband. He presented city leaders with several studies and some facts on interference effects to and from other licensed RF users.

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Andreasen: "I know the mayor so I stopped in one day and asked him. He said yes they were and I introduced him to some of the facts of radiation not only causing problems with public communications, the CHP, Amateur Radio, etc., but about it also causing problems with the BPL system (itself).

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Meantime, Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY, made the California Highway Patrol aware of their efforts. The statewide C-H-P radio system operates on low-band F-M which falls right smack in the middle of the spectrum used by B-P-L.

And then they wait until December 17th for the newspapers to report the results of their City Council vote on the matter. The good news: No Broadband Over Powerlines in Lompoc. Instead, the City Council approved a rival, non radiating system that uses fiber optic technology.

But that's not all. The company that did the study for the planners was told by the City Administrator not to entertain any radiating methodologies at all. All because ham radio operators spoke up and provided proof that B-P-L could be hazardous to the regions R-F environment.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

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Another quote from Paul Andreasen, K1JAN, kind of sums it up. "We not only win one, but a bureaucracy kept it's word!" (K1JAN, W6YN)

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RESCUE RADIO: THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA QUAKE

Meantime, about 90 miles North of Lompoc an earthquake measuring 6 point 5 on the Richter scale struck at 11:15 a.m. on Monday December 22nd. Centered not far from the famed Hearst Castle tourist attraction at San Simmeon. Ham radio was quick to respond as we hear in this report:

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K6YR: "Various parts of the livingroom looked like the U.S. Army had gone through a Fedeey'n safe house. Just glass and food stuffs all over the place. It was pretty scary."

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That's Rob Griffin, K6YR, the Section Manager for the area where the quake hit. He was describing what his own home looked like after the magnitude 6.5 temblor hit. But Griffin would have to put off clean-up chores because there was other work that needed to be done:

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K6YR: By noon the San Luis Obispo Emergency Operations Center had called out the ARES and RACES operators, primarily supporting the Red Cross in opening shelters in Paso Robles and Oceana. Morrow Bay also had Red Cross shelters and we provided communications for the Red Cross because their cell phones just weren't functioning for the first 12 hours after the earthquake.

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According to Griffin with cellphones down, another way to communicate was needed by emergency workers. Enter ham radio volunteers.

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K6YR: "We had some come from as far as South county which includes

Oceana, Nipomo, maybe even some from Santa Maria to help support the North county Paso Robles ARES area."
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The city of Paso Robles was hardest hit. Part of the historic downtown area was destroyed and two people were killed. Griffin says that hams were on scene providing communications for about 24 hours. When we spoke to K6YR some were still there:

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K6YR: " There are some Amateur operators still manning the county Emergency Operations Center. but my understanding is that the communications and support up at the Paso Robles Police Department has closed down for the timer being and it appears that the Red Cross has its communications which relies on cell phones back in operation."

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The bottom line. It took the cellular providers about 12 hours to get service back to most of the stricken area. Meantime ham radio operators were there, doing what they do best.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, reporting.

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According to Cal Tech, Monday's temblor was the state's first deadly earthquake since the magnitude 6.7 shaker that hit Northridge California in 1994. (ARNewsline(tm))

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RESTRUCTURING: VK TO GET REVISED AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Hams in Australia will soon have a restructured Amateur Radio Service. Some of the changes are coming soon Others are still being negotiated. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, is here with the details:

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As reported, the Australian Communications Authority has decided to discontinue the Morse code proficiency requirement for the amateur service. The ACA will also remove the prohibition of third party communications to an amateur station in another country. If another country seeks a prohibition on such communications, this will be published and conveyed to the amateurs. To effect this decision, the ACA will need to amend the Radiocommunications Licence Conditions Determination No. 1 of 1997. Thats the Amateur LCD.

The ACA will directly inform the amateur community through established communication channels when the amendment has been made. The ACA will update the Amateur Internet Linking System consumer fact sheet to incorporate changes to third party communication arrangements.

The ACA will continue to impose limits on the purity and stability of emitted frequencies, and maximum power limits on amateur stations in accordance with the ITU's requirements for transmitting stations. The ITU requirements will be incorporated into the ACA's public information doments in early 2004 to ensure that they are available to amateur licensees.

The ACA will maintain current requirements for use of a callsign while operating an amateur station, as contained in sections 8, 37 and 44 of the Amateur LCD. The ACA is still considering whether to permit the abbreviation of callsigns during emergency services operations and training. A decision will be announced by mid-2004.

The ACA will proceed with the proposal for Australia to participate in European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations - CEPT. While liaison with CEPT about T/R 61-01 can commence immediately, the licensing arrangements necessary to implement this will not begin until mid-2004.

The ACA is working through submissions about the remaining proposals, including the licensing structure, and expects to announce decisions by mid 2004.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of Q-News Australia.

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Obviously for hams down-under, this is the start of something big. (Q-News)

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Break 1

News never takes a holiday and neither do we. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K-9-K-E repeater serving Godfrey Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO EVENTS: KID'S DAY IS SUNDAY JANUARY 4

Its one of the two most important ham radio holidays of the ham radio year and its only about a week away. Of coarse we are talking about the first of two Kids Day operating events for 2004.

According to a recent ARRL Letter, the first Kid's Day of 2004 will occur on a Sunday. Next Sunday, January the 4th. And unlike most other on-the-air events, Kid's Day is not a contest. Rather its a time when experienced hams open their hearts and their stations to invite kids in and put them on the air to experience the magic that is ham radio.

Kid's Day will run from 1800 to 2400 UTC, and there's no limit on operating time. The suggested exchange is a youngsters name, age, location and favorite color. Most operation will be found on 14.270 to 14.300, 21.380 to 21.400 and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz and local 2 meter repeaters.

Guidelines for Kids Day are available at www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.htm. And -- oh yes: If you miss this Kids Day operating event the next one won't take place until Saturday, June 19th. (ARRL)

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HAM RADIO EDUCATION: IARU CONGRATULATES NEW HAMS

A top IARU official has welcomed Albania's newly licensed hams to the hobby. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is here with more:

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Ole Garpestadt, LA2RR, is IARU Region 1 Chairman. And while participating in the recent graduation ceremony for Project Goodwill Albania 2003, he took the time to congratulate the new Albanian licensees, and welcomed them to the bands.

Garpestadt credited the University of Triana and the program organizers with their success in conducting the training and succeeding in something that the IARU itself has had only limited results with. It should be noted that LA2RR participated in final negotiations with Albanian authorities for their entry to CEPT and bringing the Albanian licensing regime into line with the rest of the CEPT world.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

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One final note on Project Goodwill Albania 2003. Its organizer, the famed D-Xer Martti Laine, O-H-2-B-H, was awarded a "Senior Fellow of Polytechnic University of Tirana" at the graduation ceremony. In his closing remarks Liane thanked everyone involved for what he termed as their five weeks of serious effort. (Via press release)

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HAM RADIO EDUCATION: 2004 - 2005 FAR SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Meanwhile, here in the United States, it's ham radio scholarship time again. This, with word that Foundation for Amateur Radio is providing applications for hams to apply for the 59 awards that it will administer for the 2004 through 2005 academic.

Right now, the foundation is inviting Amateur Radio licensees planning to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school, and who are either enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Awards range from $500 to $2500 with preference in some cases going to residents of specific geographic area or to those

pursuing certain study programs.

The cutoff date is April 30, 2004. Application forms are available by mailing a request to FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 831 Riverdale, Maryland. The Zipcode is 20738. (Foundation for Amateur Radio)

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ELECTRONIC ASSISTANCE: REPAIRCLINIC.COM

A new Web site has been created to usher Americans away from their throwaway habits and into the world of yesteryear when we just kept it working.

Called RepairClinic.com, the cyberspac port provides aids for those looking to repair anything from a refrigerator or air conditioner to more complex devices such as microwave ovens. The site appears to derive most of its income by selling spare parts and factory manuals.

At the moment the site sticks to typical kitchen appliances. It does not provide advice on such items as radios, T-V sets, VCRs and other consumer electronics. At least, not yet. (Science Today)

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RESCUE RADIO: THE LATEST TOWER TO COLLAPSE IS....

A 528 foot tower supporting antennas for WMGX and WYNZ in the Portland, Maine area collapsed on Thursday, December 11th. As reported on Scott Fybush's web site, the reason for the tower falling appears to be a guy wire that apparently snapped. The story, and a photo of the tower prior to collapse, can be seen at www.fybush.com/nerw.html Its not known if any ham radio repeaters shared this support structure. (CGC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: VE1MR NAMED RAC RADIO AMATEUR OF 2003

Bill Elliott, VE1MR, has been named to receive the RAC Radio Amateur of the Year Award for 2003. Currently President of Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Elliott has been a Radio Amateur and a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada and its predecessor national organizations for over twenty years. Through that time, VE1MR has consistently and generously donated his technical and organizational skills to significantly promoting excellence in Amateur Radio and facilitating its public service role.

For a complete story on VE1MR's activities and the contributions which qualified him for this prestigious award, see http://www.rac.ca/new/canada.htm (RAC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: JENNICAM GOING QRT

And, by the time you read this, Jennifer Ringley will have taken her famed jennicam.org webcam off the Internet and Q-R-T. This, after 7

years of her permitting the world to watch her life through a cyberspace eye.

Ringley was 20 and a student at a Pennsylvania college when she installed a web camera in her room and launched jennicam.org. That was in April of 1996 and over the years the cameras have followed her every movement 24 hours a day.

A self-described former computer geek who now lives in Northern California, Ringley has posted that her web cam was intended to be a fun way for her mom or friends to keep tabs on her. Also, that it was an interesting use for the digital camera that she bought on a whim in the bookstore.

Now, the site has a notice saying it will be closing on December 31st. No reason is given and Ringley has not respond to e-mail query's from the press. (Published news reports)

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BREAK 2

Bringing you communications news 52 weeks a year. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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NEWSLINE NEWS: MORE THANK YOU'S WITH N6TCQ

Ladies and gentlemen, we end this year and begin the next by saying thank you to more listeners who kept the Amateur Radio Newsline on the air throughout 2003. Here's Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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This week we have the second half of our list of people who helped us financially in the month of April:

Linda Reeder of Salt Lake City, Vic Hartpence, W7RKU of Sparks, NV, The Puget Amateur Radio Society of Kirkland, WA, The Quarter Century Wireless Association of Eugene, OR'. Bill Alexander, KR6G of Quincy, CA, Leo Halog, KR6EG of San Fransisco, Mark Lunge and the MSARC N6MPX Repeater System, San Leandro, Monthly contributor William Walters, WA2IBM, of San Jose, Monthly contributor Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, San Jose
SCATS, the Southern California Amateur Transmitting Society, in West Covina, Our good friend Dave Bell, W6AQ of Hollywood, And Newsline Staff volunteers who paid out-of-pocket to keep Newsline on the air.

Thank you to everyone. Your April response to our crisis was exceptional, and we promise to do our best to continue to earn your care and support. A reminder that Newsline is a 501c 3 California non-profit corporation. FCC regulations prohibit us from telling you exactly how

to support us, but that information is on our website at www.arnewsline.org. I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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More from Andy in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm))

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HAM RADIO AND SPACE: THE MARS EXPRESS

An amazing space DX record for ham radio. This as Charlie Suckling, G3WDG reports that he has successfully received the 'Mars Express' deep-space probe using his 3 meter dish antenna.

Mars Express has been on its way to the red planet since the 2nd of June and was scheduled to arrive on Christmas Day. The signal was earlier received on 8.4 GHz by James Miller, G-3-R-U-H, at the AMSAT D-L ground station in Bochum, Germany. This, when the probe was 107 million kilometers away on November 16th.

Although traveling at the speed of light, the signal took about six minutes to reach earth. The AMSAT D-L website has information on how amateurs can receive Mars Express.

The AMSAT-DL website at www.amsat-dl/pa5/reception_g3ruh.htm provides information on how amateurs can receive Mars Express. (GB2RS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PC SAT UPDATE

AMSAT North America reports that P-C sat is doing fine and will continue in good sunlight through New Years Eve. The satellite is seeing about 50 packet users per day and 30 per pass over the USA.

Anyone with a 2 meter transceiver and T-N-C can easily copy this bird. Just tune the radio to 145.825 and watch for 1200 baud normal AX.25 packet. (AMSAT)

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INTERNATIONAL-SWEDEN: NO CODE ON JANUARY 1?

GB2RS reports that Sweden is likely to permit former CEPT Class 2 amateurs access to the High Frequency bands from the 1st of January. SM0SMK, the President of Swedish national amateur radio society has said that they hope the Morse code test requirement will be removed at the turn of the year.b (RSGB)

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INTERNATIONAL - UK: NEW TRAINING PRESENTATIONS ON THE WEB

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society in Essex England has made all of its Powerpoint slide presentations for the United Kingdom's Foundation and Intermediate courses available on the web. Those who are interested in seeing what's involved in getting these new U-K licenses can download the slides from www.qsl.net/g0mwt (M5AKA)

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DX

In DX, the FMRE Sunday bulletin has announced that the X-F4 DXpedition to Socorro Island will begin March 3rd, and run for two weeks. The call sign to be used is X-F-4-I-H. 8 operators from Mexico will be active all bands and modes including VHF, UHF and satellite. No QSL information is available at this time.   (XE1KK, N4GN)

And S57CQ expects to be in Bhutan by the time you hear this newscast. He plans to spend as much of his spare time as possible active as A52Q. QSL as directed on the air. (RSGB)

Lastly PA4WM will be in Turkey for six months, on a four week rotation schedule. He operates SSB, CW and RTTY as TA1/PA4WM with 100 watts into a G5RV. He plans to upgrade his antennas with a vertical and receiving antenna for 160 and 80 meters at the earliest available time. (GB2RS)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: HEAVY METAL ON THE HAM BANDS

And finally this week, Heavy metal is back on the ham bands. No, not the rock music kind. We are talking heavy metal as in vintage AM gear. Paul Goodman, K2ORC, has more in this report filed over the air - using AM :

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Sunset on December 27, 2003 will mark the kickoff of this year's Heavy Metal Rally. A showcase for AM transmitters that weigh at least 250 pounds and produce 250 watts or
more, the annual event is sponsored by Electric Radio magazine.

The Rally has become a coast to coast highlight for many AM amateur stations in North America with activity on 160, 75 and 40 meters. The event goes all night, ending at sunrise on December 28

Participants who want to compete for the top place trophy submit logs to the event coordinator. Scoring for the Heavy Metal Rally utilizes a point system that takes into account, among other things, total number of contacts and the number of states and bands worked. In a departure from traditional contest-type scoring, a station can receive an extra point for each positive signal or audio report received by the event coordinator from other hams and SWLs.

Scoring notwithstanding, many AM fans participate in the Heavy Metal Rally simply for the pleasure of talking and listening to other AM stations with strong signals and outstanding audio.

Winter HF operating conditions generally lead to numerous coast to coast contacts featuring a diversity of transmitters. It would not be unusual for listeners to hear, an amateur in Colorado on a restored Gates broadcast transmitter chatting with someone in California running a Collins broadcast transmitter.

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Contact Audio
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While broadcast transmitters may be the first thing to come to mind when picturing equipment that meets the Heavy Metal weight and power criteria, the Rally also features a sizeable number of homebrew and military rigs. For more information on the 2003 Heavy Metal Rally, including the email address for log submissions and a list of suggested operating frequencies, please visit amfone.net -- that's alpha-mike-foxtrot-oscar-november-echo - dot - net.

Reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Paul Goodman, K2ORC.

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Sounds great, doesn't it! You can hear more for yourself on Saturday evening December 27th overnight into Sunday the 28th on 160 and 75 meters. Its the 2003 Heavy Metal Rally on your radio to enjoy. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

For this week and this year, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. Our thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News for their assistance in producing this weeks report.

A reminder that our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73, Happy New Year and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2003 and 2004. All rights are reserved.